

Serial No. 10/027,163
Amdt. dated June 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 10, 2005

Attorney Docket No. PF02257NA

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 20 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1 through 4, 6, 8, 11 through 13, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,584,494 to Manabe, et al. ("Manabe, et al. patent"). Also, claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Manabe, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,430,604 to Ogle, et al. ("Ogle, et al. patent"). Claims 10 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Manabe, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,609 to Aravamudan, et al. ("Aravamudan, et al. patent"). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Manabe, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0048615 to Kato, et al. ("Kato, et al. publication").

Claim 1 as amended provides, *inter alia*, "determining whether the target device is available for interactive communication with the originating device and whether a canned reply associated with the originating device is available based on the configuration data" and "sending the canned reply to the originating device if the target device is unavailable for interactive communication with the originating device and the canned reply associated with the originating device is available". Also claim 11 as amended provides, *inter alia*, "a messaging proxy coupled to the messaging server, the messaging proxy being effective to direct the messaging server to route the communication message to the target device if the target device is available for

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interactive communication with the originating device and to send a canned reply associated with the originating device to the originating device if the target device is unavailable for interactive communication with the originating device and the canned reply associated with the originating device is available to the messaging proxy". For example, as shown by steps 216, 220 and 224 of FIG. 2 and Tables 1 & 3 of the specification, the canned reply may be associated with a classification of the originating device. As another example, shown by step 414 of FIG. 4, the canned reply may be associated with rules for configuration of the originating device.

In contrast, the Manabe, et al. patent describes a chat system in which predetermined replies are associated with the target device, not the originating device as required by claims 1 and 11 as amended. Likewise, the Ogle, et al. patent, the Aravamudan, et al. patent, and Kato, et al. publication do not describe or suggest a canned reply associated with the originating device as required by claims 1 and 11 as amended. Therefore, claims 1 and 11 distinguish patentably from the Manabe, et al. patent, the Ogle, et al. patent, the Aravamudan, et al. patent, Kato, et al. publication, and any combination of these references.

Claims 2 through 10 and 12 through 20 depend from and include all limitations of independent claims 1 and 11, respectively. Therefore, claims 2 through 10 and 12 through 20 distinguish patentably from the Manabe, et al. patent, the Ogle, et al. patent, the Aravamudan, et al. patent, Kato, et al. publication, and any combination of these references for the reasons stated above for claims 1 and 11.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 through 20 are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

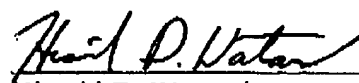
No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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